

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 000877

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/02/2015

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [IN](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: GOI NON-PAPER ON ATTACKS ON BANGLADESHI AHMEDIYAS

REF: 04 NEW DELHI 5486

Classified By: PolCouns Geoff Pyatt, Reasons 1.5 (B,D).

1. (C) On January 27, MEA Director (Americas) Renu Pall gave us the following non-paper on 2003-04 attacks against Ahmediyas in Bangladesh. This non-paper was originally referenced by our GOI interlocutors during the August 31-September 1, 2004 US-India Counterterrorism Joint Working Group (CTJWG) meeting in New Delhi.

2. (S) Begin lightly-edited text:

Title: "Attacks on Ahmediyas"

In November 2003, a mob in Dhaka attacked members of the Ahmediya sect (or "Kadianis" as they are called in Bangladesh). Several hundred people tried to prevent the Ahmediyas from entering a mosque on a Friday after the Imam of the Rehaim Metal Mosque exhorted all "real Muslims" to wage a jihad against the "kafir Kadianis."

In January 2004, the Bangladeshi government announced a ban on the publications of the Ahmediya community. This decision was reportedly taken at the highest levels. Reports indicate that this anti-Ahmediya campaign is being provoked by the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), a member of the four-party ruling alliance. This announcement of the ban came shortly before an ultimatum by the Hifazate Khatme Nabuwat Andolan (HKNA) seeking the excommunication of the Ahmediyas.

The government also announced the withdrawal of cases against some 12,000 anti-Ahmediya activists including dropping charges for assaulting policemen during demonstrations in Dhaka in November-December 2003.

On April 16, 2004 several anti-Ahmediya activists entered the Ahmediya mosque in Dhaka. Police failed to take action against this.

In late April 2004, the houses of 12 Ahmediyas in Badarganj (Rangpur district) were vandalized. Subsequently, an attempt to capture the Ahmediya mosque in the same area was prevented by police.

An Islamic outfit "Aamra Dhaka Bashi" announced on 23 August, 2004 its plan to besiege the Ahmediya Headquarters complex at Bakshi Bazar, Dhaka, on 27 August, 2004, to demand the declaration of Ahmediyas as "non-Muslims."

Reportedly, Imams and Maulvis at different places throughout Bangladesh have started issuing fatwas calling for social ostracizing and boycotts against Ahmediyas.

The GOB has not shown much concern over the threat. State Minister for Religious Affairs Musharraf Hussain Shahjahan disclaimed any responsibility in the regard and State Minister for Home Lutfussaman Babar said that he did not have details about the issue.

The human rights organization Amnesty International, in a report posted on its website entitled, "Bangladesh: The Ahmediya community - Their Rights Must Be Protected," called upon the GOB to lift the ban on Ahmediya publications.

US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca during her visit to Bangladesh in May 2004 was also outspoken about religious intolerance in the country. She visited the Ahmediya Mosque and in a public statement said, "religious minorities must be protected, not stigmatized or victimized by book banning and attacks on their places of worship." She also hoped that Bangladesh would continue "on the road to being a tolerant country."

End text.

Comment

-----

3. (C) Pall made no request for USG action on the above matter. In the context of our ongoing dialogue regarding Bangladesh and CT cooperation, Mission would appreciate Washington's perspective on the veracity of this data.

MULFORD